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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I was amazed when I heard what Microsoft was proposing as its "punishment" for exerting monopolistic practices. The offer is insulting to the US Department of Justice, the country's legal system, and ultimately the American people. That they would advertise offering \$1.1 billion in software (software that is readily reproduceable for less than \$1 per computer) is absurd. That they would seek to exert their monopoly on future generations by exposing them to "their" way of computer usage and their way alone, borders once again on the criminal. I would hope that those far wiser and more learned than me can see through such overt deception. If not, we have problems far graver than one arrogant software company.

One additional comment. As a long time professional in the software industry, Microsoft's agreement to make available part of its source code to some of its distributors also leaves me troubled. The original Windows operating system, though a huge franchise, is being replaced by new code. This means that Microsoft has given to the world something that they see has little value to their's or any other organization.

Microsoft is the dominant player in the software industry and as such has provided an electronic lingua franca to the world. I would hate to see their demise. I would also hate to see their monopolistic practices continue to squelch the inventiveness of those ideas that Microsoft eventually steals and markets as its own